Warren County Community College

# POL 110 Introduction to Law

# Course Master Syllabus

## Course Information

**Catalog Description:** This course provides an examination of the historical basis and the current structure of the American legal system, including the legislative, judicial, and executive functions. The course also provides introduction to the substantive and procedural aspects of law, including contracts and business, real and personal property, torts and negligence, criminal law, family law, and wills and estates. Ethical responsibilities are stressed.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Corequisite(s):** None

**Credits:** 3

**Hours:** 3

**Required Text(s):**

**Supplemental Materials:**

## Instructor Information

**Instructor's Name:**

**Contact Information:**

**Office Hours:**

## Program Goals

- Describe the structure, functions, and processes of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
- Analyze legal principles, constitutional rights, and ethical considerations in criminal justice practices.
- Apply knowledge of criminal law, due process, and legal procedures in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.

- Evaluate criminological theories and their application to crime prevention, policing strategies, and rehabilitation efforts.
- Examine correctional policies, rehabilitation programs, and alternatives to incarceration, considering their impact on individuals and society.
- Assess modern policing strategies, investigative techniques, and community-based approaches to maintaining public safety.
- Utilize research methods and data analysis techniques to examine crime trends, policy effectiveness, and criminal behavior.
- Analyze contemporary issues in criminal justice and propose evidence-based policy recommendations.

## Class Core Competencies

The following core competencies are embedded in this curriculum:

- Communicate effectively in both speech and writing
- Use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens
- Understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance
- Understand ethical issues and situations
- Address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

## Class Learning Assessment

| Student Learning Outcomes | Suggested Means of Assessment |
|---|---|
| Explain general legal concepts. | Exams, quizzes, papers, discussion board |
| Define legal terms. | Exams, quizzes, papers, discussion board |
| Draw the court structure. | Exams, quizzes, papers, discussion board |
| Dramatize a case presentation. | Exams, quizzes, papers, discussion board |
| Explain legal principles and rationale of the court opinions. | Exams, quizzes, papers, discussion board |

## Grading System

| Letter Grade | Percentage Range |
|---|---|
| A | 90 to 100 percent |
| B Plus (B+) | 87 to 89.9 percent |
| B | 80 to 86.9 percent |
| C Plus (C+) | 77 to 79.9 percent |
| C | 70 to 76.9 percent |
| D | 60 to 69.9 percent |
| F | Below 60 percent |

## College Information

**Disability Services**
Disability Services Webpage

**Statement and Policy on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Conduct**
Academic Conduct Policy (Policy 304) [PDF]

Students are required to perform all the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited unless the instructor explicitly permits it in the syllabus or assignments. If tools such as ChatGPT are permitted by an instructor to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and with proper citation. In all such cases, you may only use the specific tools identified as acceptable and you must adhere to the College's standards for attribution, validation, and transparency.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of Academics. A student found guilty of violating the rule of academic integrity by the Vice President of Academics will be considered to have failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary action to attend class.

**Tutoring and Testing at the Instructional Support Center (ISC)**

- Instructional Support Center (ISC) Webpage

**WCCC Library Services**

- WCCC Library Website

**Citation Styles and Formatting**

Work submitted for any Warren County Community College course must conform to the required formatting and citation style that are specified by the instructor. The Library and Instructional Support Center can assist students with formatting and citations for assignments and papers.

**WCCC Attendance Expectations**

The College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. This involves sharing discussions and lectures in class, as well as interacting with other students. Grades are based on the quality of work students complete in meeting the requirements for a particular course, as stated in the course syllabus and catalog description. Attendance, among other factors, may be an additional criterion for assigning grades. Students should realize that they are responsible for all class meetings and that work missed because of absences may affect their grades. Attendance in online classes is determined by the completion of assignments/ tests. Students who have not completed any assignments or tests will be considered non-attending and receive an NF grade in online classes.

**Class Attendance Expectations**

## Topical Outline

- The historical basis and current structure of the American legal system
- The court system in the United States
- The three branches of government and their duties
- Substantive and procedural law
- Ethical considerations of public employees
- Areas of law and specialization

## Grading Methods

| Assignment | Points/Percentage |
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## Class Itinerary

| Week / Unit | Topic | Readings/Assignments |
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